

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claim 12 and amend claims 1 to 8, 10, 11 and 14 in the manner set forth below.

1. (Amended) A magnetic unit, comprising:

a first group of at least a first pair of permanent magnets comprising either ceramic magnets or ferrous magnets having like poles of said permanent magnets positioned adjacent [an outer surface of] each other;

a second group of at least a second pair of permanent magnets comprising either ceramic magnets or ferrous magnets having like poles of said permanent magnets positioned adjacent each other, said first and said second groups of said permanent magnets defining a channel therebetween;

at least a third pair of magnetically permeable members comprising malleable steel members, malleable iron members, or molded iron members, one of said third pair being respectively located between said adjacent surfaces of said pair of permanent magnets and located adjacent each outer surface of said pair of permanent magnets; and

means for securing said pair of magnetically permeable members and said pair of permanent magnets, thus to provide a said magnetic unit which concentrates its magnetic flux through

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20 said malleable steel members at opposed locations in said
21 channel;

22 at least a third permanent magnet located in said channel,
23 [a] each pole of said third magnet being positioned adjacent an
24 opposite magnetic pole of said first pair of permanent
25 [magnetics] magnets at a surface of one of said magnetically
26 permeable members, [an opposite pole of said third magnet,] thus
27 to maintain a stable positional relationship by the magnetic
28 effect of the relationship among said first, second, and third
29 permanent magnets.

AB
1 2. (Amended) The magnetic unit as set forth in claim 1,
2 wherein the permeable members are each a malleable steel member
3 which is located between said permanent magnets forming said
4 first and said second pairs of permanent magnets.

1 3. (Amended) The magnetic unit as set forth in claim 1,
2 further including a support member for supporting said third
3 permanent magnet in said channel, said support member being
4 secured to a second support member for a portion of [said] a
5 vehicle.

1 4. (Amended) The magnetic unit as set forth in claim 1,
2 further including at least a pair of said first and said second

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3 groups of said permanent [magnet members] magnets forming a pair
4 of said magnetic units, and an additional magnetically permeable
5 member located between said pair of said groups of said permanent
6 [magnet members] magnets.

1 5. (Amended) The magnetic unit as set forth in claim 4,
2 wherein said magnetically permeable members located at the outer
3 surfaces of said permanent ~~magnet members~~ ^{magnets} are generally L-shaped.

1 6. (Amended) The magnetic unit as set forth in claim 4,
2 wherein said magnetically permeable member located between said
3 pair of said groups of said [magnetic members] permanent magnets
4 is generally T-shaped.

1 7. (Amended) The magnetic unit as set forth in claim 4,
2 wherein [one] a first of said pair of said groups of said
3 permanent magnets is mounted on a support member of a vehicle,
4 and [another] a second of said pair of said groups of said
5 permanent magnets is mounted on a support member of a structure
6 adjacent said vehicle, whereby attraction or repulsion of said
7 pair contributes to levitating said vehicle.

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AB 1 8. (Amended) The magnetic unit as set forth in claim 7,
2 wherein means are providing for controlling a gap between said
3 pair of groups of magnetic units.

1 10. (Amended) The magnetic unit as set forth in claim 9,
2 wherein a sufficient plurality of said pairs of said groups of
3 magnets are positioned along a right-of-way to cause ^{the} vehicle[,
4 such as a train,] to be levitated for translational motion.

1 11. (Amended) A system for supporting a train for
2 traveling while levitated, comprising:

3 a first support member forming a portion of said train;
4 a [second] stationary elongate [support member for
5 supporting] right-of-way structure along which said train
6 travels[,];

7 a first plurality of adjacently-spaced, generally
8 vertically-aligned groups of permanent magnets comprising ceramic
9 magnets or ferrous magnets placed in an elongated face-to-face
10 relationship [on each of] along said [first and said second
11 support members] elongate right-of-way structure, said groups of
12 said permanent magnets [and] being separated by magnetically
13 permeable [materials to] material members which focus lines of
14 flux into a channel defined between said plurality of groups of
15 permanent magnets, said plurality of said groups being positioned

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16 to attract each other, said [plurality of groups defining a]
17 channel [therebetween] extending along essentially a full length
18 of said elongate right-of-way structure; and

19 a plurality of permanent magnets located in said channel
20 with opposite magnetic poles facing poles on said first plurality
21 of groups of ~~magnetic members~~ ^{permanent magnets;} and

22 a third support member [secured to] interconnecting said
23 plurality of permanent magnets located in said channel [and
24 secured to] with said first support member.

1 ¹² 14. (Amended) The system as set forth in claim [12] 11,
2 further including [a] roller guide [reference member] means
3 secured to said [second] third support member [and] for
4 projecting [intermediate] outwardly toward wall portions
5 immediately proximate said channel and for remaining in a
6 normally non-contact relationship with the wall portions.

REMARKS

This is in full and timely response to the Official Action mailed April 5, 1996 (Paper No. 6). Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Authorization, in a separate letter to the official draftsman, is sought to amend Fig. 8 as originally filed in a